I lay a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002, the Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Repeal Bill, 2002 and the Freedom of Information Bill, 2002 on the Table.

REPORT OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I present the Fifth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards, on Assam Board of Wakfs.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Manmohan Singh wants to raise some point.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

Pamphlet Published by Parliament Secretariat on Freedom Movement

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Madam, I wish to draw your attention to a pamphlet which has been published by the Parliament Secretariat entitled 'Movement for Freedom and Democratic Institutions'. This pamphlet has a section on the revolutionary movement, and in describing some of our revolutionary leaders during the freedom struggle, expressions like 'terrorists' and 'extremists' have been used. Madam, these words have acquired a particular significance in the contemporary discussion of terrorism. So, I respectfully submit to you to instruct the Secretariat that this pamphlet, in its present form, should be withdrawn, and words like 'terrorists' and 'extremists' should not be used for our leaders of freedom struggle, particularly, the revolutionary leaders.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, we did never accept the epithet given by the colonial rulers to our freedom fighters, as extremists or terrorists. These were phrases used by them, because these people fought against the colonial interests. But, in free, independent India, if Parliament publishes a pamphlet containing such phrases while describing our freedom fighters and leaders, it is not proper and fair. I join with Dr. Manmohan Singh and submit that this pamphlet should be withdrawn. Everything is allright, but those phrases must be removed, not only for the

reason that in the contemporary context, they have acquired a new connotation but also because we did never accept the word 'mutiny' used for the 1857 struggle. We call it 'The First War of Independence'. British historians used to describe it as a mutiny but we did not accept that type of connotation and expression.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Actually, in the British India Library, there is a file which calls our freedom fighters as 'Thags and Dacaits'. I have seen it myself. So, now, if the colonial people used those words, can we call our freedom fighters, whose photographs are in the Central Hall of Parliament, like that. At that time, there were no words like 'terrorists'.

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Madam, even a persons like Sri Aurobindo was called a terrorist by the Britishers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Especially, the names of Sri Aurobindo and people like Maulana Azad and others were descriped like that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition are appreciated. Definitely, it would be looked into.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): Madam, it was a very unfortunate incident that had taken place in Mumbai. We have sought the information from the State Government. (*Interruptions*);

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a question of terrorism. God forbid, your child could have been in the bus. My child could have been in the bus. It is a question of terrorism. It is not a political question. (*Interruptions*). It is not a political question.

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) : मैडम ...

उपसभापति : हां, आप की कुछ समस्या थी, आप बोलिए ।